

**Carl Barham\_FAV\_SB0464**

Uploaded by: Barham, Carl

Position: FAV

**To: The Honorable Senator Paul G .Pinsky, Chairperson  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Matters Committee**

**From: Dr. Carl S. Barham, Co- Leader  
Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team**

**Re: Support for Senate Bill 464- Commemorative Days, *Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day***

**Date: Monday, March 2, 2020**

I am speaking on behalf of the Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team located in Dorchester County. Permit me to highlight and share with you **six reasons** why we strongly support Senate Bill 464.

- It confirms that the Right to Vote is a core value guarantee to us by the Constitution. Voting is the one opportunity that makes us equal as citizens. It is a great equalizer in our democratic society. Exercising this right will improve the quality of life for many citizens.
- It can serve as a reminder and motivator during election time to recommit ourselves in exercising the power of our vote.
- It provides a model that ten bold brave men, eight white and two Africans could work together to improve through the political process how to make our county and state a better place to live.
- It is a rich legacy that we can pass on to our children on how we fought for fairness and equal access to voting rights.
- It memorializes the work of the ten men by having erected in 1987 a 20,000-pound blue granite majestic monument in Dorchester County.
- It confirms that amending the Maryland Constitution in 1986 by changing from a system of **At Large Voting to District Voting** continues to increase minorities leadership and participation at the local, state and federal levels in the work force.

Finally. You are encouraged to google: **Freedom From Political Persecution and Tyranny**, more popularly known as the **Historical Freedom Shrine** to learn more about this historical event.

**To: The Dorchester County Delegation**  
**From: Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team**  
**Re: Justification for the Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day**  
**Date: December 18, 2016**

### **Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day**

“An idea whose time has arrived.”

The Dorchester County Delegation is working in concert with the **Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team**, to support and to establish the **Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day**. The Delegation will request a House Resolution to be presented on the House Floor during the 2017 Legislative Session. Our Senator will also request a Senate Resolution on the Senate Floor.

The justification for the annual Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day presented by the Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team is as follows:

- It is written as a text on the base of the monument in 1987, “Lest we forget” what historical political event that occurred here. More than a quarter of a century later, the answer is “Yes” we did forget.
- The Maryland Constitution was amended in 1986, because the previous one disenfranchised minority citizens and rural citizens regarding fair voting rights. They were disenfranchised for more than one hundred thirty five years.
- During the process and time for amending the Constitution, no property or lives were lost from negative political backlash.
- The Maryland Monument for Voter Reform: The Historical Freedom Shrine is the only monument memorializes ten local men, whose efforts led to statewide reform in local elections.
- North Dorchester is the Birthplace of Maryland Voter Reform.
- A forty thousand pound blue granite monument was erected on November 10, 1987 to commemorate ten men, and the political events that led up to changes in voting practices in Maryland.
- Amending the Constitution provided voting equity to all citizens of the counties in Maryland.

At the Maryland Legislative session in 1986, there were House Bill 37 and House Bill 38 co-sponsored by Delegate John W. Douglass and posthumously Senator James Clark to amend the Constitution. HB 37 provided political equity for all of Maryland citizens. HB 38 addressed the implementation phase of the bill.

The Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team is planning activities and events for the remainder of 2016 and into 2017. The goal is to increase public awareness and appreciation of our rich political and cultural history.



# **Mayor Jackson-Stanley\_City of Cambridge\_FAV\_SB0464**

Uploaded by: Jackson-Stanley, Victoria

Position: FAV



Victoria Jackson-Stanley  
Mayor

## City of Cambridge

### City Hall

410 Academy Street - P O Box 255

Cambridge, Maryland 21613

Phone: 410-228-4020 Fax: 410-228-4554

MD Relay (V/TTY) 711 or 1-800-735-2258

E-Mail [mayor@choosecambridge.com](mailto:mayor@choosecambridge.com)

March 3, 2020

Letter of Support

TO: Senator Addie Eckardt

FROM: Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley

Bill: Senate Bill 464 Commemorative Days- Maryland Voting Equity Reform Days

Hearing: March 5, 2020

Position: Support

Dear Senator Eckardt:

As Mayor of the great City of Cambridge Maryland, please accept this letter of Support for Senate Bill 464-Commemorative Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day in the State of Maryland.

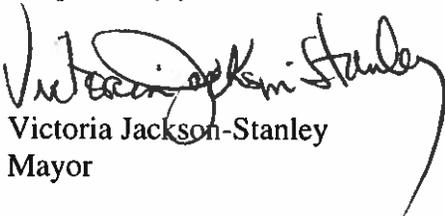
North Dorchester Maryland is the Birthplace of Maryland Voter Reform.

The Maryland Constitution was amended in 1986, because the previous one disenfranchised minority citizens and rural citizens regarding fair voting rights. They were disenfranchised for more than one hundred thirty-five years.

The Maryland Monument for Voter Reform: The Historical Freedom Shrine is the only monument memorializes ten Dorchester County men; whose tireless efforts led to statewide reform in all local elections.

Amending the Constitution provided voting equity to all citizens of the counties in Maryland.

Respectfully yours,



Victoria Jackson-Stanley  
Mayor

**Gregory Meekins\_FAV\_SB0464**

Uploaded by: Meekins, Greg

Position: FAV

## TESTIMONY

**TO:** Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Educating Health, and Environmental Affairs

**FROM:** Gregory L. Meekins **Gregory L. Meekins**  
1344 Cambridge Beltway  
Cambridge, MD 21613

**Bill:** Senate Bill 464 House Commemorative Days- Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day

**Hearing:** March 5, 2020

**Position:** Support

Dear Senator Pinsky and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team I am pleased to support Senate Bill 464 which will be before your committee considering the Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day. As one of the "Ten" men that worked to help facilitate the amending of the State Constitution in 1986 to provide voting equity to all citizens of the counties of Maryland I support this legislation.

As a native of Dorchester County and former president of the Dorchester County NAACP where this initiative began, I believe will do much for this generation and the generation after us to remember and continuously promote the importance of voting equity in our State. This is particularly germane as we see assaults on voting access and equity in several jurisdictions around the country.

So that we don't forget the work of the "Ten" that has preceded us in this area so important to our democracy I respectfully solicit your Committee's favorable action of this bill. This action will be of tremendous value to Dorchester County and the State of Maryland.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of SB 464.

# **Dorchester County Council\_FAV\_SB0464**

Uploaded by: Newcomb, Jay

Position: FAV

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY**

**COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 26  
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND 21613  
PHONE: (410) 228-1700  
FAX: (410) 228-9641**

**JAY L. NEWCOMB, PRESIDENT  
LIBBY HANDLEY NAGEL, VICE PRESIDENT  
WILLIAM V. NICHOLS  
GEORGE L. PFEFFER, JR.  
RICKY C. TRAVERS**



**KEITH ADKINS  
COUNTY MANAGER  
E. THOMAS MERRYWEATHER  
COUNTY ATTORNEY**

March 4, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 464 Entitled "Commemorative Days-Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day"**

Dear Senator Pinsky, Chair and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for Senate Bill 464 entitled "Commemorative Days-Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day" which will establish a Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day.

Dorchester County, and more specifically the northern area, is the Birthplace of Maryland Voter Reform. Due to the efforts of the following local men the Maryland Constitution was amended to provide equity to all citizens in the State of Maryland in local elections: George C. Jones, Don W. Bradley, Richard Harding, Edward Conway, Leon Medford, Charles F. Hurley, Sr., Oliver Harding, William Reid, William O. Corkran and Gregory Meekins. Currently the only monument that memorializes their actions is located in Dorchester County. The County Council believes that the State should also recognize their efforts which lead to statewide voter reform and supports the establishment of a Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day. We ask that you do the same and look favorably upon Senate Bill 464.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. Please contact the Council's Office at (410) 228-1700 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL

Jay L. Newcomb  
President

jln/dl

cc: The Honorable Adelaide Eckardt, Senator  
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate  
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate  
The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Delegate

# **Akil Rahim\_FAV\_SB0464**

Uploaded by: Rahim, Akil

Position: FAV

## Memorandum of Support

**DATE:** March 4, 2020

**TO:** Senator Adelaide C. Eckardt

**FROM:** Akil K. Rahim, Past President Dorchester County NAACP

**REFERENCE:** Senate Bill 464 Commemorative Days - **Maryland Voting Equity Reform Days**

**Hearing:** March 5, 2020

**Position:** Support

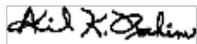
Honorable Senator Adelaide C. Eckardt:

I am a former resident of Dorchester County – born in Cambridge, raised in Hurlock, attended and graduated from the public schools there.

This memorandum is written in support of and as a request for your support of the passage of Senate Bill 464 Commemorative Days – **Maryland Voting Equity Reform Days**. Its passage will establish an annual recognition of voting equity reform in Maryland as commemorated on The Historical Freedom Shrine erected in 1987 and is located on the west side of East New Market-Ellwood Road.

The Historical Freedom Shrine commemorates a required change in the Constitution of Maryland ordered by the United States Courts; subsequently, bringing full democracy to and granting equitable voting rights for Dorchester County's minority and rural citizens.

Please support the passage of **Senate Bill 464 Commemorative Days – Maryland Voting Equity Reform Days**.

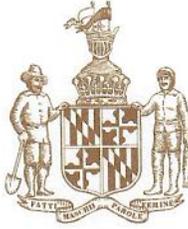


## **Senator Eckardt\_FAV\_SB0464**

Uploaded by: Senator Eckardt, Senator Eckardt

Position: FAV

**ADDIE C. ECKARDT**  
*Legislative District 37*  
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,  
and Wicomico Counties



*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 322  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3590 • 301-858-3590  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3590  
Fax 410-841-3087 • 301-858-3087  
Adelaide.Eckardt@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services  
Subcommittee

*Joint Committees*

Administrative, Executive,  
and Legislative Review

Audit

Children, Youth, and Families

Fair Practices and  
State Personnel Oversight

Pensions

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*District Office*  
601 Locust Street, Suite 202  
Cambridge, Maryland 21613  
410-221-6561

Testimony for Senate Bill 464  
Commemorative Days - Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
March 5, 2020

Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 464: Commemorative Days – Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day. This bill designates the fourth Tuesday in October as a commemorative day in celebration of voting reform in Maryland.

In 1986, the Maryland Constitution was amended to remove the requirement that all county commissioners and council members be elected through at-large voting. Statewide, at-large voting effectively disenfranchised our minority and rural populations.

Ten men from Northern Dorchester County led the effort to amend the Maryland Constitution in 1986. Senate Bill 464 celebrates and commemorates the efforts of these men. In addition, this bill celebrates voting equity for our minority and rural citizens across Maryland.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 464. Thank you.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Addie Eckardt'.

Senator Addie Eckardt

# **Johnny Tillery\_FAV\_SB0464**

Uploaded by: Tillery, Johnny

Position: FAV

# TESTIMONY

**To:** The Honorable Adelaide C. Eckhardt  
**From:** Mr. Johnny M. Tillery, Private Citizen  
**Bill:** Senate Bill Commemorative Days – Maryland Voting Equity Reform Days  
**Hearing:** March 5, 2020  
**Position:** Support for Senate Bill 464 Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day

Dear Senator, Eckhardt:

I am writing this letter in support of The Senate Bill 464 Commemorative Days – Maryland Voting Equity Reform Days. The bill would be an instrument that would recognize North Dorchester County as the Birthplace for Maryland Voter Reform. To be celebrated annually, on behalf of The Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day. It would bring a sense of pride to the community of Dorchester County to re-ignite the bravery of the 10 bold men that stood against the disparity in The Maryland Constitution. By their efforts The Maryland Constitution was amended in 1986. Because the previous one disenfranchised minority and rural citizens regarding fair voting rights. The amendment to the Constitution provided voting equity to all citizens of the counties in Maryland. And to symbolized it, a monument was created name The Historical Freedom Shrine. Therefore, I support the passing of the bill to acknowledge the phrase on the base of the forty-thousand-pound blue granite monument “Lest we forget”. There is no better way to do that than have an annual ***Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day***.

Sincerely,

Mr. Johnny M. Tillery, Private Citizen

